MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2026

Status: May 2026

1. CLIMATE

1.1 Rainfall (Tables 1a and 1b, Figure 1)

The amount of rainfall recorded during May 2026 over the sugar cane growing areas of the island was 121 mm which represented 74% of the long-term mean (LTM, 163 mm) for the month. Below normal rainfall was recorded in all sectors except in the North.

Total rainfall from October 2025 to May 2026 stood at 1071 mm for the island, i.e. 64% of the LTM. During that period, 713 mm were recorded in the North, 1428 mm in the East, 1061 mm in the South, 469 mm in the West and 1470 mm in the Centre. These figures were lower than their respective LTM in all sectors.

Table 1a. Rainfall (mm) for the month of May for crop 2025, 2026 and the long term mean (LTM)

Crop	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2025	147 *(163)*	385 *(186)*	343 *(176)*	52 *(124)*	426 *(209)*	293 *(181)*
2026	**94** *(104)*	**171** *(83)*	**117** *(60)*	**22** *(52)*	**143** *(70)*	**121** *(74)*
LTM	90	207	195	42	204	163

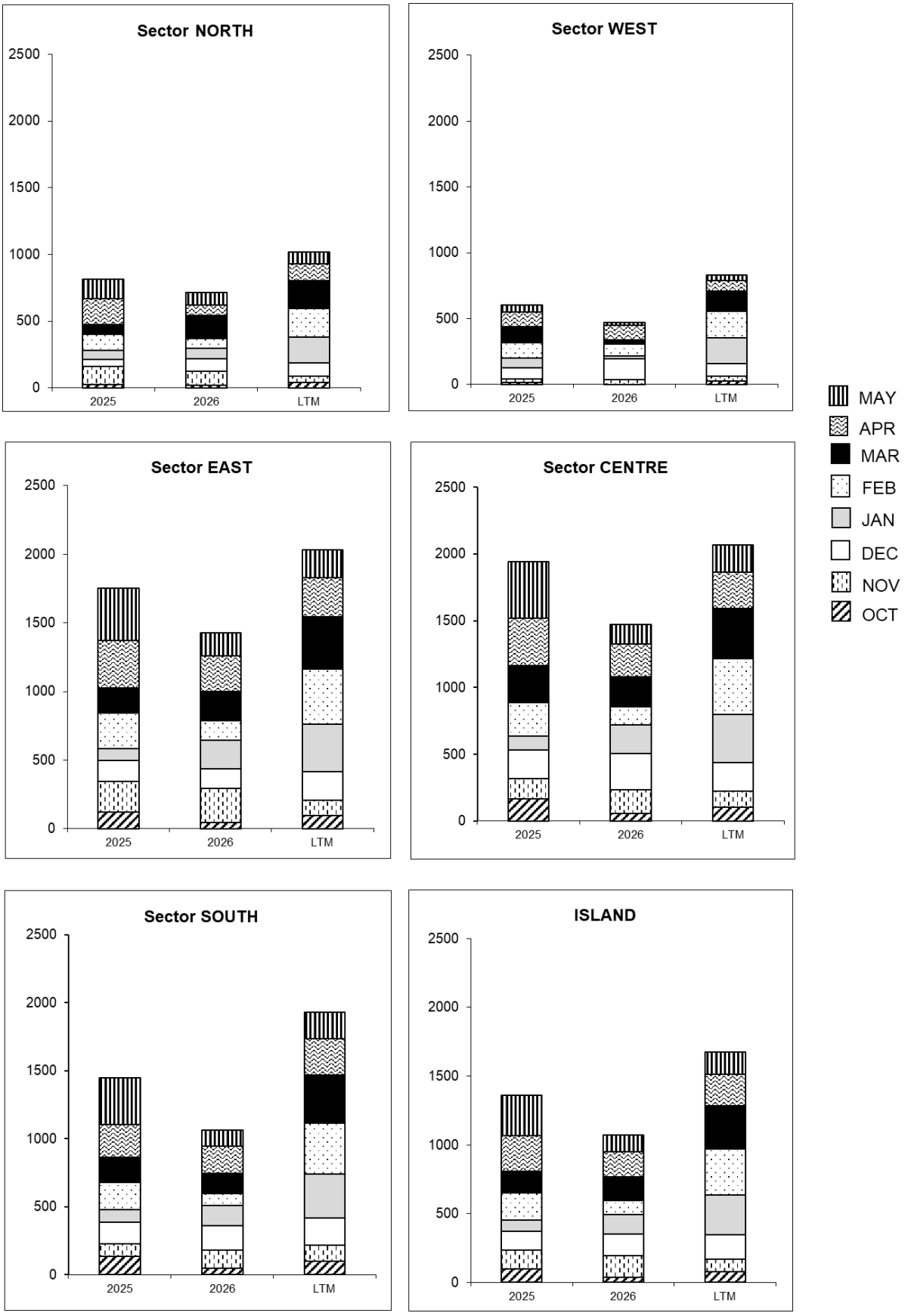
figures in brackets are % of LTM (1991-2020)

Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2025 to May 2026 for crop 2026 compared to that of crop 2025 and the LTM

Crop	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2025	814 *(80)*	1754 *(86)*	1448 *(75)*	603 *(73)*	1944 *(94)*	1363 *(82)*
2026	**713** *(70)*	**1428** *(70)*	**1061** *(55)*	**469** *(57)*	**1470** *(71)*	**1071** *(64)*
LTM	1020	2034	1930	830	2066	1672

figures in brackets are % of LTM ***[Source: Mauritius Meteorological Services]***

Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October 2025 to May 2026 for the 2026 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2025 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).



1.2 Air Temperature and sunshine duration (Table 2)

Data on air temperature and sunshine duration recorded during the month of May 2026 on the MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given in Table 2.

Table 2. Air temperature and sunshine hours recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in May 2026

Stations	Maximum (°C)		Minimum (°C)		Sunshine hours	
	May 2026	+ / -	May 2026	+ / -	May 2026	% Normal
Ferret	28.8	+0.8	20.0	+1.0	237	101
Réduit	26.0	+0.6	18.1	+0.2	209	95
Union Park	25.1	+0.4	19.1	+1.0	163	100

+ / - Deviation from the Normal (1991-2020)

The mean maximum and minimum temperature during May 2026 exceeded the normal at all stations. Sunshine duration recorded during that period was comparable to the normal at Ferret and Union Park but slightly below normal at Réduit.

2. STALK HEIGHT *(Table 3a, 3b and Figure 2)*

Measurement of stalk height was carried out during the last week of May 2026 at 57 sites in the five sugar cane sectors of the island. These selected sites are representative of the various agro-climatic zones, different varieties and crop categories. Data collected were compared with that of last two years and the mean of the five best cane yielding crops for the period 2016 to 2025 in each sector (referred to as normal).

2.1 Stalk elongation

During the month of May 2026, stalk growth was 24.7 cm in the North, 25.7 cm in the East, 27.8 cm in the South, 26.4 cm in the West and 19.0 cm in the Centre. These growth values exceeded those recorded at the same period in 2025 in all sectors except for the East where it was comparable. When compared to the normal for the corresponding period, cane growth in May 2026 was superior in all sectors.

Table 3a. Stalk elongation during the month of May 2026

	Stalk elongation (cm)			May 2026 as % of	
Sectors	**May 2026**	**May 2025**	**Normal**	**2025**	**Normal**
North	24.7	23.8	21.2	104	116
East	25.7	26.0	15.1	99	171
South	27.8	23.2	22.7	120	123
West	26.4	21.4	19.7	123	134
Centre	19.0	17.8	11.7	107	163
Island	**25.7**	**23.5**	**20.6**	**109**	**125**

The island stalk elongation of 25.7 cm in May 2026 exceeded both that of May 2025 by 9% and the normal by 25%.

2.2 Total stalk height

At end-May 2026, total stalk height reached 194.3 cm in the North, 236.1 cm in the East, 228.5 cm in the South, 188.7 cm in the West and 183.3 cm in the Centre giving an island average of 214.5 cm. These figures were higher than those recorded at the corresponding period in 2025 in the East and South, comparable in the West but lagged behind in the North and Centre. Stalk height at end-May 2026 was inferior to the normal in sectors North, West and Centre, comparable in sector South but higher in sector East. At island level, the total stalk height of 214.5 cm at end-May 2026 was comparable to that in 2025 but was below the normal by 2%.

Table 3b. Total stalk height at end-May 2026

	Stalk height (cm) at end-May			End-May 2026 as % of	
Sectors	**2026**	**2025**	**Normal**	**2025**	**Normal**
North	194.3	207.4	214.6	94	91
East	236.1	225.9	228.6	105	103
South	228.5	219.6	226.3	104	101
West	188.7	186.1	210.3	101	90
Centre	183.3	190.9	188.5	96	97
Island	**214.5**	**212.4**	**218.3**	**101**	**98**

3.0 Sucrose Accumulation (Tables 5a and 5b)

Cane samples from miller-planters' land in all factory areas and covering the main cultivated varieties were analysed for sucrose content during the second week of May 2026. The average Pol % cane (*richesse*) was calculated on the basis of area under cultivation of each variety in the different factory areas of each sector. The results were compared with those of past years.

At mid-May 2026, the *richesse* was 7.0% in the North, 7.8% in the East, 8.5% in the South, 6.8% in the West and 8.4% in the Centre. Compared to end-May 2023, sucrose content at mid-May 2026 was comparable in the North but lower in other sectors. Similarly, when compared to end-May 2022 and 2020, the values obtained for mid-May 2026 was lagging behind in all sectors, except in the South for end-May 2022. Island-wise, the *richesse* of 7.7% recorded at mid-May 2026 was lower than those of end-May in 2023(8.2%), 2022 (8.1%) and 2020 (9.6%).

Table 5a. Average Pol % cane (richesse) at mid-May 2026.

Variety	North	East	South	West	Centre
M 52/78			10.8		10.5
R 573	9.7	11.3	9.6		
M 2256/88	9.3	9.0			
M 1392/00		10.4	11.2		
R 575			9.8	7.6	
M 387/85					9.3
M 1989/99	8.3				
M 2283/98			4.8		
M 1176/77	8.3	9.8	9.2	9.8	
M 1861/89			8.6		
M 2593/92	8.1	8.8	7.9		
M 1400/86	5.2	6.6		5.6	8.3
M 2502/99		8.7			
R 579	6.7	6.2	7.7	6.0	8.0
M 1672/90	10.9		8.8		
R 570	6.7	6.2	8.8	4.5	
M 915/05	9.0				8.2
M 683/99	4.0			6.4	

Table 5b. Pol % cane (richesse) at mid-May 2026 compared to end-May 2020, 2022 and 2023.

	Mid-May 2026	End-May 2023	End-May 2022	End-May 2020
North	7.0	6.9	7.1	10.0
East	7.8	8.9	8.4	9.2
South	8.5	8.9	8.1	9.5
West	6.8	7.0	9.0	9.7
Centre	8.4	8.8	8.6	9.8
Island	**7.7**	**8.2**	**8.1**	**9.6**

4.0 CROP 2026

The weather conditions that prevailed during the month of May 2026 were characterised by below normal rainfall over the island, above normal air temperature and ample sunshine duration at most stations. The overall weather was conducive to the process of photosynthesis and growth of the crop. This is reflected on stalk elongation recorded for the month which was superior to the normal in all sectors and over the island. The deficit in total stalk height for the island which was 4% in April 2026 has now dropped to 2% of the normal.

Sucrose accumulation at mid-May 2026 over the whole island is considered low but the crop possesses the capacity for rapid sucrose accumulation under favourable conditions and with the onset of winter, sucrose accumulation rate is expected to increase in the coming weeks.

Figure 2. Stalk height at end-May